

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN FROM MONROVIA
SEPT 03:

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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, SF, RH, WA, LI

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM FONMIN DENNIS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER ON LOS

REF: (A) STATE 213536, (B) STATE 190812, (C) MONROVIA 5688

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS' REPLY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AUGUST 28 LETTER ON LOS CONFERENCE. DENNIS REQUESTS THAT MESSAGE BE TRANSMITTED TO SECRETARY.

2. QTE HIS EXCELLENCY HENRY A. KISSINGER, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I AM SORRY I COULD NOT RESPOND TO THE LETTER SENT ME ON AUGUST 3, 1976, AS MATTERS OF STATE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY PREVENTED MY DOING SO. HOWEVER, I SHALL ATTEMPT TO DO SO CRYPTICALLY, PERHAPS, BUT FULLY, I HOPE.

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ACCORDINGLY, I SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO STATE THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT ON EACH OF THE MAJOR ISSUES YOU HAVE LISTED IN YOUR MESSAGE.

WITH RESPECT TO THE EXPLOITATION OF THE DEEP SEABED, MY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE POSITION THAT WHILE WE AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME MODICUM OF FREEDOM TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL STATES IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED, A SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION WHICH PROVIDES FOR NATIONAL OR PRIVATE EXPLOITATION ALONG WITH DIRECT EXPLOITATION BY THE "ENTERPRISE" REPRESENTING THE AUTHORITY WOULD CRIPPLE THE OPERATION OF THE AUTHORITY IN THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH THE NEEDED CAPITAL WOULD PREFER TO GO IT ALONE RATHER THAN COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITY OR THE "ENTERPRISE." CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE WE THINK THAT EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED SHOULD BE FREE, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO ADOPT THE DUAL SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AS YOU SEEM TO ADUMBRATE WOULD ALMOST DESTROY THE CHANCES OF EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE BENEFITS OF THE SEABED. THE DIFFICULTIES HERE ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, LIBERIA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE THESIS THAT A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WAS REASONABLE AND FAIR TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION, OF COURSE, THE ABILITY OF THE COASTAL STATE TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER SUCH AN AREA.

WITH REGARD TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT SUCH RESEARCH CAN BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE ECONOMIC ZONE ONLY WITH THE CONSENT OF THE COASTAL STATE, WHETHER THE RESEARCH BEARS ON THE LIVING OR NON-LIVING RESOURCES OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE OR WHETHER OR NOT DRILLING OR BLASTING INTO THE SEABED OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE INTERFERES WITH ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COASTAL STATE. HOWEVER, OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IS ALSO THAT THE CONSENT REGIME HERE SHALL NOT BE USED BY THE COASTAL STATE TO DEPRIVE OTHER STATES FROM CONDUCTING BONA FIDE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

IF I UNDERSTAND THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT CORRECTLY, CONSENT OF THE COASTAL STATE SHALL BE OBTAINED WHERE THE RESEARCH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOURCES WITHIN THE ZONE OR INVOLVING DRILLING ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HOLD THE POSITION THAT CONSENT MUST BE OBTAINED FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GENERALLY, WHETHER IT AFFECTS THE LIVING OR NON-LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SEABED OR WHETHER OR NOT IT INVOLVES DRILLING ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

IN THIS CONNECTION AS IT IS ALSO ON THE QUESTION OF POLLUTION

IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT WE ARE FAR APART, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS HERE. I AM CERTAIN THAT WE CAN NEGOTIATE ON THESE POINTS AND SUCCEED IN FINDING A SOLUTION.

I ALSO AGREE WITH YOU THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SYSTEM OF EFFECTIVE COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, BECAUSE MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES, ESPECIALLY IN SUCH AN AREA AS SENSITIVE AS THIS.

ON THE WHOLE, IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCES ARE FEW AND COULD BE EASILY ELIMINATED, GIVEN ADEQUATE FORESIGHT, EQUITABLE CONSIDERATION AND MATURE TENACITY AND PATIENCE. I AGREE THAT CREATIVE STATESMANSHIP COULD HELP US IN OUR TASK BUT MUTUAL CONSIDERATION OF EACH OTHER'S POSITION IS MOST ESSENTIAL. CHVUX# I AM SURE THAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE, WE SHALL COOPERATE VERY CLOSELY IN BRIDGING WHATEVER GAPS THERE MIGHT BE.

BEFORE CLOSING, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR BOLD STAND ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. YOUR INITIATIVES ON THE BURNING ISSUES OF THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA SHOW MATURE STATESMANSHIP AND SAGACIOUS LEADERSHIP, THE SORT OF STATESMANSHIP AND LEADERSHIP WHICH ARE RARE IN OUR WORLD TODAY. THIS IS WHAT I CALL CREATIVE STATESMANSHIP. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS MY FERVENT HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES, LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD, WOULD CONTINUE TO MANIFEST INTEREST OF SUCH PROPORTION AND QUALITY IN THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, ESPECIALLY SOUTHERN AFRICA, UNTIL MAJORITY RULE BECOMES A REALITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY RESTORED IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE UNITED STATES, WHEN I ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON HIS STATE VISIT TO YOUR GREAT COUNTRY, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YOU ON THE MANY ISSUES CONCERNING AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

LASTLY, THE LIBERIAN DELEGATION HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COLLABORATE WITH YOUR DELEGATION IN THOSE AREAS WHICH HAVE POSED PROBLEMS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND THE SOLUTION OF WHICH WILL CONDUCE TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND MANKIND IN GENERAL. SINCERELY, C. CECIL DENNIS, JR. UNQTE.
CARTER UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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